



To Higher Education Institutions involved in European cooperation

Our reference: wij/mem
Bern, 30 September 2014

Interim solution for Switzerland's participation in Erasmus+ activities

Dear Madam, Dear Sir,

Following the decision of the Swiss Federal Council on 19th September 2014¹ to pursue the interim solution for Switzerland's involvement in the European education programme "Erasmus+", we would like to inform you about its main features. As the negotiations on Swiss participation in Erasmus+ were suspended in February 2014, Switzerland now has the status of a third country ("partner country" in the Erasmus+ terminology). Swiss institutions can only participate in a reduced number of activities and only under the conditions applying to organisations from "partner countries" as described in the Erasmus+ programme guide. Switzerland contributes substantially to the positioning of European education and research as a whole and is willing to ensure that this success continues. Our stated aim remains full association to "Erasmus+".

This interim solution has been put into place for 2014 and it has now been confirmed that it will be further applied in 2015 and 2016 unless Switzerland's status in "Erasmus+" changes. Priority is given to mobility (key action 1) in school education, vocational education, higher education, adult education and youth. Swiss institutions participating in cooperation projects which correspond to Switzerland's political objectives in the area of education will also be supported.

For the higher education sector the main features are:

- Swiss higher education institutions (HEIs) can apply for Swiss funding of outgoing and incoming mobility activities (key action 1) with any Erasmus+ programme country;
- These activities include all types of mobility (for study or traineeships, for teachers and staff). Traineeships in Switzerland can only be funded if they are coordinated by a Swiss HEI;
- Student mobility for studies and staff mobility for teaching are based on inter-institutional agreements between Swiss and European HEIs;
- In 2014, the amount awarded to students coming to Switzerland for study purposes is between CHF 360 and CHF 420 (approx. EUR 300-350), for traineeships CHF 420 (approx. EUR 350). The amount for 2015 and 2016 has not yet been set;

¹ Press release available in French, German and Italian:
<https://www.news.admin.ch/message/index.html?lang=fr&msg-id=54521>

- For cooperation projects (Strategic Partnerships, Knowledge Alliances and Sport Partnerships), Swiss HEIs can participate in two ways:
 - Either within the framework of the interim solution, i.e. Swiss HEIs can participate in Strategic Partnerships, Knowledge Alliances and Sport Partnerships as “associated partners” and apply for national funding.
 - Or Swiss HEIs can participate in Strategic Partnerships, Knowledge Alliances and Sport Partnerships as “full partners” (benefiting from funding from Erasmus+) on condition that they bring added value to the project.

For more details and for information about other sectors please consult the website of the ch Foundation, the agency in charge of implementing this solution: www.ch-go.ch.

We hope to pursue fruitful cooperation with all our partners in order to continue to have an open and innovative education system.

Kind regards

Josef Widmer
Deputy Director

